Action plan to check the growth of deserts

@2486. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed any action plan to check the growth of deserts in Rajasthan and Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are-the achievements, so far; and

(d) if reply to (a) be in negative in what manner Government propose to check the growth of deserts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) A Central Sector Scheme namely the Desert Development Programme (DDP) is already in operation in Rajasthan and Gujarat since 1977.78, with the basic objective of controlling desertification and achieving ecological balance in the long run.

(b) The objectives of the Pro gramme is sought to be achieved through activities such as affores tation with special emphasis on sand-dune stabilisation, shelter-belt plan tation grassland development, soil and moisture conservation and water re sources development. The Program me is in operation in eleven districts of Rajasthan covering an area of 2,08,750 sq. km. and a population of 10.53 million people. In Gujarat, the Programme is in Operation in two districts covering an area of 9,370 sq. km. and a population of 1.02 million people.

(c) The achievements under the Programme in Raajsthan and Guja rat are in the statement annexed *(See* below)

(d) Question does not arise.

Statement *$*

Table indicating the achievements of DDP in Rajasthan and Gujarat

State/Plan period	Expendi- ture	Physical achievement (00 ----------hectares)			
		Land Res. De- tation	Water ment	Affores-Develop- velopment	Res. & Pasture Development
Rajasthan					
1977-80	17.68	241.94	0.08	102.48	
1980-85 (VI Plan)	45.32	57.15	57.93	421.63	
1985-90 (VII Plan)	146.48	400.93	102.70	681.02	
1990-91	47.00	93.11	30.35	86.86	
1991-92 (Provisional upto December, 1991)	24.07	37.25	24.64	102.88	
Gujarat					
1977-80	0.89	0.00	0.00	74.00	
1980-85 (VI Plan)	5.68	9.16	16.60	116.23	
1985-90 (VII Plan)	10.07	22.43	24.54	77.90	
	2.54	12.84	10.45	17.65	
1991-92 (Provisional upto December, 1991)	1.80	14.88	3.42	14.25	

@ Previously Unstarred Question 960, transferred from the 4th March, 1992.